

## **FACT SHEET**

# Running for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Council of State (NC Residents)

Notice of Candidacy and Filing Fees for the Primary Election (§163-106, 107, 108)

- Candidates must file a notice of candidacy with the SBE and pay a filing fee of 1% of the annual salary of the office sought to the SBE. Notice of candidacy forms may be obtained at the SBE office prior to the date on which candidates may commence filing. Candidates who have properly filed their notice of candidacy and paid the filing fee will have their names certified by the chairman of the State Board of Elections to the Secretary of State three days after the expiration of the filing period.
- Candidates must be a registered voter of the same political party in which he or she intends to file (an individual changing party affiliation, must do it 90 days prior to the filing date).
- All candidates must, at the time of filing a Notice of Candidacy, file a certificate signed by the chairman or the director of the county board of elections where they are registered to vote. The certification shall state the party with which the person is affiliated, and that the person has not changed affiliation in the last 90 days.
- A candidate may not file for more than one office.

#### **Filing Period** (§163-106(c))

- Begins 12:00 Noon **Monday, February 13, 2012.**
- Ends 12:00 Noon Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

# **Election Dates** (§163-1)

- Primary The Tuesday after the first Monday in May preceding the general election. . **Tuesday**, **May 8**, **2012**
- Second Primary If a second primary is required it shall be ordered by the appropriate board of elections, State or County, seven weeks after the first Primary.
- No Third Primary is permitted.

• General Election - The Tuesday after the first Monday in November. **Tuesday**, **November 6, 2012.** 

# **Qualifications for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and All Council State Offices** (N.C. Const. Art. 6 Sec. 6)

- Governor An individual must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the U.S. for five years, a resident of North Carolina for 2 years, and a qualified North Carolina voter.
- Lieutenant Governor An individual must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the U.S. for five years, a resident of North Carolina for 2 years, and a qualified North Carolina voter.
- Council of State Candidates for Council of State must be 21 years of age and be a registered voter. In addition, a candidate for Attorney General must be authorized to practice law.
- Terms Governor (4 years) Lieutenant Governor (4 years) Council of State (4 years)

### Requirements for Campaign Reporting Filing (§163-278.9)

- The Campaign Reporting Act requires financial disclosure of all political activities. Law provides that reports are due to be filed at the State Board of Elections Campaign Reporting Office for candidates in the 2012 Elections. The time of filing of these reports and the types of reports will vary by the type of campaign. Every candidate will be responsible for their compliance with campaign finance mandates. A Candidate Campaign Finance Manual is available on-line on the State BOE website.
- It is required that all campaign committee treasurers receive training in handling campaign finance reports and law. This can be accomplished on-line or in-person at numerous training sessions being offered.
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT: An organizational report must be filed with the State Board of Elections within ten days of becoming a candidate. Being a candidate includes taking positive action for the purpose of obtaining nomination or being elected, soliciting or receiving contributions, making expenditures to enhance a campaign, or filing a notice of candidacy, whichever comes first. The report can be found on-line and the Campaign Finance Division is available to help you with the filing.